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LATE EDITION

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 28, 1918.

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FRENCH ADVANCING--BERLIN OFFICIAL CLAIMS GAINS

FIERCE ENGAGEMENT RAGES NEAR ARRAS

Germans Throw Seven Divisions in an Attack on British Front on Both Sides of Scarpe River, Opposite Arras, After Heavy Bombardment.

London, March 28.—The Germans threw at least seven divisions into an attack on the British front on both sides of the Scarpe river after a heavy bombardment this morning. The British forward zone was penetrated and a fierce engagement took place in the battle zone.

This attack was delivered opposite Arras. In the region affected the British line now runs from Arleux, to Fampoux, Neuville-Le-Vitasse and Boisieux.

In the Mont Didier region the entente line now runs through Warvillers, Arvillers, Davencourt, Gratibus, and Mesnil-St. Georges to Hainvillers. (This line enfleaves Mont Didier within a sharp salient, the apex of which is at Mesnil-St. Georges, about 2 1/2 miles southwest of Mont Didier.)

MORE AREA FORFEITED AFTER VALIANT DEFENSE

Throws Concentrated Forces Forward on the French Left, Sustaining Heavy Losses.

Paris, March 28.—Blocked on the Lassigny and Noyon fronts and on the left bank of the Oise, the Germans last night threw forward important forces in the region of Mont Didier, the war office announced today. Here the fighting rapidly took on extraordinary ferocity.

French regiments fought hand-to-hand with the enemy and inflicted heavy losses. Finally the French fell back to the heights immediately to the west of Mont Didier.

The text reads:
"The battle was fought with sustained violence yesterday evening and last night. The Germans, blocked by the valiant French troops, and cruelly punished before the Lassigny and Noyon fronts and the left bank of the river Oise, concentrated all their efforts on the French left and threw forward important forces in the region of Mont Didier."
Earlier Statement.
Paris, March 28.—Fighting was continued with violence yesterday evening and last night on the battle front, the war office announced today.
BERLIN'S VERSION.
Berlin, March 28.—(British Admiralty, per Wireless Press.)—Troops of the German crown prince, having penetrated to a depth of sixty kilometers (thirty-seven miles) from St. Quentin, across the Somme, have captured Mont Didier, says today's official report.
The German losses have been kept within normal limits, says the communication, although they have been heavier at the vital points on the front. The slightly wounded are estimated at 60 to 70 per cent.

GERMANS EXECUTE TWO NUNS AND CHAPLAIN

Murdered in Courtyard of Barracks at Same Time Belgian Oculist, Dr. Demets, Was Shot.

Washington, March 28.—An official dispatch from France today said the chaplain and two nuns of the hospital of St. Elizabeth at Antwerp have been executed by the Germans. They were killed in the courtyard of the barracks at the same time as the Belgian oculist, Dr. Demets, was shot.

**SIGNAL CORPS MEN
TO TESTIFY FRIDAY**
Senate Military Committee
Seeks Information on Airplane Situation.

Washington, March 28.—To obtain additional information regarding the airplane situation, the senate military committee today called Maj.-Gen. Squier, head of the signal corps, and Howard E. Coffin, chairman of the aircraft board, before it for tomorrow afternoon.

LOUISIANAN RETURNS TO DEMOCRATIC FOLD

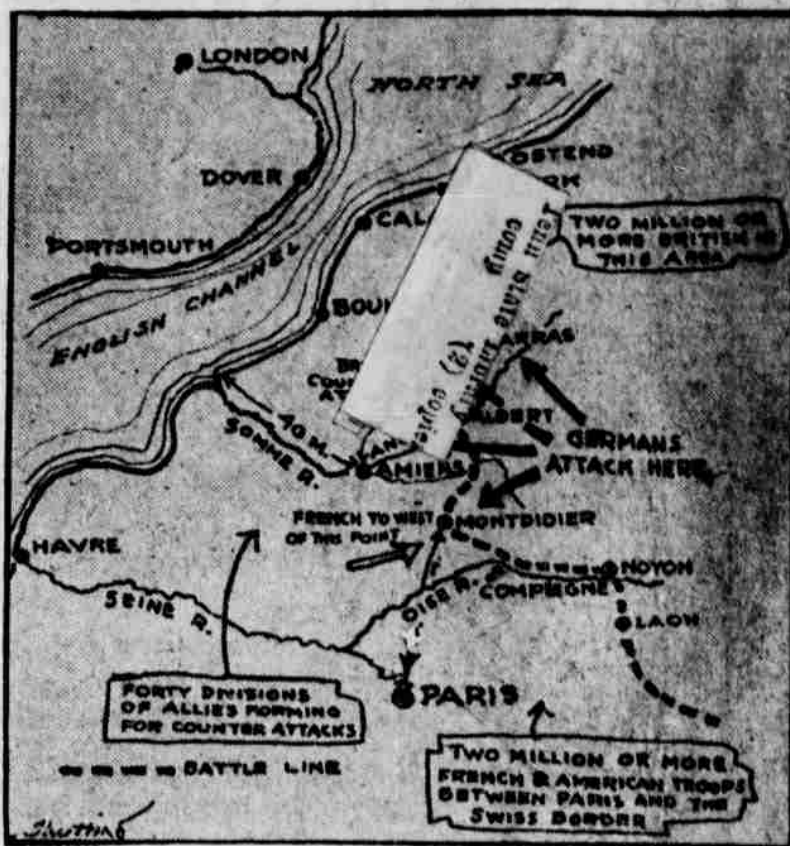
John M. Parker Deserts Progressives--Attacks on Wilson Given as Cause.

New Orleans, March 28.—John M. Parker, Louisiana federal food administrator, for several years recognized leader of the progressive party in this state and candidate of that party for vice-president of the United States in 1916, made a formal statement at a luncheon given by the Jovian league here this afternoon, announcing his return to the democratic party. His announcement at this time, he said, was inspired by reports of attacks by republican senators on President Wilson's administration. He arraigned the republican critics of the administration and declared "this is no time in our national life to criticize, but rather it is time to help."

ONE AMERICAN KILLED IN ACTION

Washington, March 28.—Today's list of casualties among the American expeditionary forces shows one man killed in action, four missing in action; one died of wounds; one killed by accident; sixteen died of disease; one severely wounded and two slightly wounded.

WHAT HUN IS TRYING TO DO



Today's official statements from the war offices indicate more clearly the daring plan by which the kaiser is seeking to divide the allies near Paris. The only progress he has made today is at Mont Didier, between Amiens and Compiègne, and about fifty miles from Paris. In this region the invaders have gained about ten miles in two days. The British lines about Albert are holding and counter-attacks are being successfully made. The French made an important advance in the region between Noyon and Compiègne.

DUNKIRK AGAIN BOMBARDED BY HUN MACHINES

English Channel Port Reported Under Fire From Long-Range Guns.

Paris, March 28.—Reports reached Paris today that the channel port of Dunkirk, which has been bombarded intermittently by the Germans with long range cannon, has been under fire again for several days. The number of victims is placed as high as twenty, and the material damage is said to have been severe.

More Favorable Features.
London, March 28.—Yesterday's news contained several more favorable features," says the Times, "though today's fighting may be supremely critical. There is reason to hope that the next two days may see some sort of equilibrium established. Reinforcements are passing rapidly into the firing line."

The morning Post says: "We believe that the British army has saved itself and in saving itself has saved England. The battle may not yet be finished, but we believe the worst is over."

The Express warns against mistaking a lull for the end. "If the crisis is temporarily less insistent," it says, "we must regard the interval merely as a breathing space; for it is certain the kaiser will try again and yet again."

Americans Share All.
Paris, March 28.—The presence of American auxiliary troops on the fighting line in the great battle was the subject of much favorable comment, and when it became generally known that wounded American officers and men were being brought back with the French wounded from the region of St. Quentin, American stock rose high. The moral effect was considerable, even though the supposition was that the number of the American troops in line was not considerable.

The comforting thing to the French is that recently whenever there has been hot fighting, the Americans have had a share of it, even if a small one, and have acquitted themselves creditably.

AMNESTY GRANTED TO ALL
CONNECTED WITH REVOLT
San Jose, C. R., March 28.—President Tinoco has issued a decree granting amnesty to all those concerned in the recent revolt.

Fought Like Veterans

French Captain Pays High Tribute to Americans at Somme.

Paris, March 28.—"Entirely new in this warfare, the Americans worked like the best veterans in the battle of the Somme," says a wounded French captain who has been brought back from the front, according to La Liberte.

Two of the American officers, who were wounded, were brought back with the French captain. Each American was a French war cross conferred on the battlefield. The French captain refused to receive attention until the Americans alongside him had first been nursed. "They are the ones who should be congratulated," he said, calling upon the women of the Red Cross to look after the Americans.

EXPECT RETURNS OF MUCH MOMENT

Developments in Allied Counter-Attack Awaited by U. S. Staff Officers.

Washington, March 28.—American staff officers, studying closely the war maps and latest dispatches from the battle front, are of the opinion that developments of moment in the allied counter attack will begin to show themselves on the battlefield today or tomorrow.

Late reports that the Anglo-French defense is stiffening before the German assault on the western front led American military observers to believe today that the allied counter attack might get under way at any moment. All depends, of course, the officers said, on the forces the allies have been able to muster in reserve. There is every indication that both the British and French have been using reinforcements sparingly in their efforts to stem the German advance, meanwhile conserving their man power to the day just ahead.

Although no official report has reached the war department of the participation of American troops other than engineer units, the view here is that Americans may take part in the attempt to hurl the Germans back.

BRITISH NOT TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR RUSS BONDS

London, Wednesday, March 27.—The British government announced today after April 1 it will not provide funds to meet coupons on Russian government bonds. The Russian revolutionary government having declined to meet the payments, the British government, in its efforts to stem the German advance, meanwhile conserving their man power to the day just ahead.

RAIN, SAYS BILLY 'POSSUM

The war has at least taken our minds off bad weather and street car service. Another drive and we'll forget to kick about bus overcharge and promising ourselves to "just have the water put off" if they don't change that.

CROWN PRINCE'S FORCE ADVANCES TO PIERREPONT

Berlin Claims Hun Divisions South of the Somme Broke Through Allied Position and Drove Them Back in Regions of France Untouched By War Since 1914.

Berlin, March 28.—The crown prince's troops in their push which resulted in the taking of Mont Didier, advanced their lines as far as Pierrepont (on the Avre, four miles northwest of Mont Didier). The statement says:

"To the south of the Somme our divisions at many points broke their way through the old enemy positions and drove the British and French back into regions of France which have remained untouched by war since 1914."

"The victorious troops of the German crown prince have penetrated into the enemy positions to a depth of sixty kilometers in an uninterrupted attack from St. Quentin across the Somme. They pushed forward yesterday as far as Pierrepont and took possession of Mont Didier."

ATTACK WITH GREAT DASH, DRIVING ENEMY BACK

French Counter-Movement Southward of Noyon Rushes Hun Army Back on Front of Ten Kilometers to Depth of Three Kilometers.

London, March 28.—French troops this morning counter-attacked with great dash and drove back the enemy on a front of ten kilometers to a depth of three kilometers southward of Noyon.

This announcement was made in a British official summary of the situation issued this evening. The summary adds that the Germans last night entered Mont Didier.

Pressure Continues.
London, March 28.—The French pressure on the enemy is continuing in the area of their counter attack south of Noyon.

"The British are holding their positions north of the Somme, their line in that area standing virtually the same as last night. Several

SPIES WORK IN CURTISS PLANT

Senator Overman Assigns Responsibility for Failure of Airplane Program.

Washington, March 28.—Charges that German spies were responsible for this country's failure to keep up in its airplane program, were made in the senate today by Senator Overman, democrat, of North Carolina. He also charged that there were spies in the Curtiss plant.

"If I were secretary of war, I would commandeer the Curtiss plant and put out every man employed there and hire Americans in their places," declared Senator Overman. Senator Overman declared spies took metal braces and sawing them into two joined the pieces with lead and then painted over. The first Bristow machine tried fell. An investigation disclosed the defect. Many other pieces also had been tampered with and, as a result, the building of Bristow machines was delayed two months while inspectors and government agents went over and closely examined the various parts to replace damaged pieces.

Senator Overman stated it had been said there are 100,000 German spies in this country, but he believed there are 400,000. He said he was making no charge against any employee of the Curtiss plant, but asserted some of their names sound mysteriously un-American, and added that "we do know that spies are in the plant and they have delayed the delivery of machines."

Mr. Overman announced that his information had been obtained from a detective whose name he intended giving to "Chairman Chamberlain" of the senate military committee, so that he and others can be summoned before the military committee.

BOCHES WIDEN BATTLE FRONT IN SOMME VALLEY

New Stroke Delivered on North Against British East of Arras.

MUCH BOOTY CAPTURED

London Also Claims Taking of Prisoners.

Attacks Repulsed in Beaumont-Hamel, Puisieux and Moyenneville Vicinity.

London, March 28.—Prisoners and machine guns have been captured by the British, the war office announces. The fighting continues fiercely on both banks of the Somme.

This morning the enemy opened heavy bombardment on the British defenses east of Arras. An attack is developing in this sector.

Repeated attacks were made by the enemy along the valley of the Somme in the neighborhood of Beaumont-Hamel, Puisieux and Moyenneville. They were repulsed.

Statement in Full.

"The statement follows:
"Severe fighting took place again yesterday evening and during the night on the Somme and northward from Albert. Repeated attacks were made by the enemy along the valley of the Somme and in the neighborhood of Beaumont-Hamel, Puisieux and Moyenneville. They were repulsed. We captured a number of prisoners and a number of machine guns."
"The fighting is continuing fiercely on both banks of the Somme."
"This morning the enemy opened a heavy bombardment on the British defenses east of Arras and an attack is developing in this sector."

Reference in the official British statement to the attack east of Arras evidently means that the Germans have widened their battle front and are delivering a new stroke on the north. The battle was begun last week on a front extending as far north as the river Scarpe, the junction of which with the battle line is almost due east of Arras. The fighting north of the river has been reported. The attacks which are developing today may mark the beginning of a second phase of the battle. German military writers in the last few days have been hinting that surprises were in store for the British and there has been much discussion of the possibility of a German drive for the coast with the channel ports for Calais and Dunkirk as the objectives.

AUSTRIA CLAIMS GAIN.
London, March 28.—"On the western front the attack has again won ground," says an official Austrian statement received here today.

PHOTOGRAPHS COME IN FOR CRITICISM

Washington, March 28.—Charges that the committee on public information, in issuing photographs of airplane production, supplied misleading captions tending to exaggerate the volume of production, were investigated today before the senate military committee.
Morris Strunsky, employed in the picture department of the committee, said he wrote the captions on four pictures sent out for use on March 20, but which have since been withdrawn from publication, but declared he based his information for part of the captions on statements by Secretary Baker. Strunsky said that perhaps he permitted enthusiasm to dominate the facts, although he denied any intention to mislead the public.
Lieut. John C. Burkhardt, censor for the signal corps, denied any knowledge of the pictures, or the captions.

AMBASSADOR PAGE AND BAKER TO VISIT FRONT

Rome, March 28.—American Ambassador Page has left Rome to meet Secretary Baker and accompany him on a visit to the Italian front.

Paris, March 28.—Secretary Baker arrived in Paris today from London.

U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OPENS OFFICE IN LOUISIANA

Washington, March 28.—The United States employment service today announced the opening of a second branch office in Louisiana.